APPENDIX

S.No.	Year	Date of arrival	Date of Departure	Numbers	Remarks
1.	1988	19.10.88	20.10.88	120+	
2.	1988	24.11.88	26.11.88	280+	Heavy Storms Preceded Rain
3.	1989	26.10.89	27.10.89	60+	
4.	1989	28.1189	29.11.89	40+	
5.	1990	21.10.90	24.10.90	150+	
6.	1991	28.10.91	30.10.91	40+	
7.	1992	4.12.92	7.12.92	200+	Heavy Storm
8.	1993	21.10.93	23.10.93	50+	Continuous Rains
9.	1993	25.11.93	27.11.93	300+	Heavy Storm preceded Rains
10.	1993	30.11.93	3.12.93	150+	
11.	1994	26.10.94	28.10.94	90+	
12.	1995	did not visit			
13.	1996	did not visit			
14.	1997	16.10.97	28.10.97	250+	Early Rains Heavy Storm Preceded Rains
15.	1998	2.11.98	4.11.98	300+	Heay Storms Preceded Rains
16.	1998	20.11.98	21.11.98	90+	

and sparse trees *Azadirachta indica*, *Prosopis juliflora*, *Acacia leucophloea* and *A. nilotica*.

White storks are seen here from the beginning of the northeast monsoon. They arrive in the afternoon or evening, and depart in the night or early morning. Reaching in a downpour, often along with a storm, they depart when the rain stops and the sky clears. They generally land in small, unnoticeable groups of ten to twenty, the total sometimes reaching 300, but leave together as a group. They keep moving while foraging, with about 8 m in between individuals. The slush and waterlogging, grazing sheep, cattle or buffaloes do not bother them.

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9. DISTRIBUTION AND NESTING SITES OF THE BLACKNECKED STORK *EPHIPPIORHYNCHUS ASIATICUS*

The blacknecked stork *Ephippiorhynchus asiaticus* is threatened due to habitat loss and it is feared to have become very rare. In recent literature, concerned individuals have attempted to highlight the decline of this species and it is suggested that this species be placed in Category I of CITES (Rahmani 1989, Elliott 1992). The species is largely well-dispersed and rarely seen in groups. The ecology of the blacknecked stork is not clearly understood and information on its distribution and nesting is sparse and scattered. During a survey to assess the status of the sarus crane in India (May 1998 to March 1999), we had an excellent opportunity to record sites where the blacknecked stork feed and breed. This information is presented in Table 1.

Gujarat: Though known to be inhabiting inland wetlands, four birds were seen by the sea in Gujarat (Table 1). It was not clear if they had nested in the immediate vicinity or not. All the birds were resting on a dry sandy bank in the afternoon.

Haryana: Storks have not been previously reported from Bhindawas in Haryana. The locals have not seen the species breeding in the area, even though the lake has a large heronry, and several large trees in and around the lake. Sultanpur in Jajjar district of Haryana has been facing drought for the past three years continuously and water birds were not seen.

TABLE 1
RECORDS OF BLACKNECKED STORK (*EPHIPPIORHYNCHUS ASIATICUS*)
SIGHTINGS BETWEEN MAY 1998 AND MARCH 1999

State	District	Date of Sighting	Place	Number	Comments
Gujarat	Jamnagar	25.ii.1999	Jodiya Creek	4	Two adults and two juveniles
Haryana	Rohtak	16.vi.1998	Bhindawas	4	Two pairs
Rajasthan	Banswara	5.ii.1999	Haro Dam	1	—
	Bharatpur	23.v.1998	Keoladeo NP	3	All adults
Uttar Pradesh	Kheri	3.vii.1998	Dudwa NP	3	Two adults and one juvenile.
	Bahraich	27.i.1999	Road to Lakhimpur	1	Adult in uncultivated Field. (27° 57' N; 81° 27' E)
	Rai Bareli	28.i.1999	Samaspur	5	Two adults and three sub-adults.
	Aligarh	13.ii.1999	Shekha	4	All adults.
	Etawah	15.ii.1999	Near Etawah	2	Adults feeding in an inundated wheat field. (26° 46' N; 79° 7' E)
West Bengal	Jalpaiguri	18.i.1999	Chapramari	3	All adults, roosting on a tree.

Rahmani (1989) reports a couple of birds from this site.

Rajasthan: The Bharatpur population has been well monitored. During our observation, one of the blacknecked storks caught hold of a dabchick (*Podiceps ruficollis*) and proceeded to thrash it around for a while before swallowing it whole.

Uttar Pradesh: Always been known to be the stronghold for this species and our observations corroborate this view. Samaspur was seen to be a nesting site for the storks, previously unknown (Rahmani 1989). There were three sub-adults with two parent birds in a bird sanctuary. The parents were guarding the young ones by standing on either side of them. When approached, the adults uttered a loud call and took flight, followed by the sub-adults. An hour later, in another part of the sanctuary, they were seen again, sitting on the ground flanked by the parent birds.

Northeast: There are few records and the status is unclear. In Chapramari, West Bengal, the storks have been recorded breeding regularly and the forest staff of the Sanctuary offers protection to the nesting birds.

Others: We also visited several wetlands in Jammu, Punjab, Maharashtra, Bihar, Orissa and Madhya Pradesh, but did not sight any blacknecked storks.

Rahmani (1989) and Lopez & Mundkur (1997) have records from the Asian Census dating from 1989 and the trend is one of decline in sight records of the species. It is perhaps time to take stock of all available information regarding the blacknecked stork and initiate a conservation plan to save the species.

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10. CINEREOUS VULTURE *AEGYPIUS MONACHUS* (LINN.), FAMILY ACCIPITRIDAE, IN KARNATAKA

On December 15, 1998 while on a visit to Harangi Dam, close to Kushalnagar in the Coorg district of Karnataka, a largish vulture was observed soaring over the western edge of the dam area. On approaching to have a closer look, its very dark chocolate brown underparts with pale feet and a smaller (unfeathered) head indicated it to be a cinereous vulture *Aegypius monachus*. The bird was observed for about 10 minutes. Later, the bird pulled its wings somewhat closer to its body and sailed overhead, as it glided towards the southeastern region of the barrage and disappeared from sight. Kushalnagar region comes within the eastern dry zone of Coorg district. The area where the bird was sighted was dry and open with scattered trees.

The cinereous vulture is widely distributed in central Asia, but in India it is mainly a winter visitor to the north and northwest (as far as Dhulia district in Maharashtra) (Ali and Ripley 1987). Occasional individuals have been sighted in Assam (Choudhury 1986) and Calcutta (=Kolkata) (Baker 1910) in the northeast. Although very rare, the species has been sighted in South India, once each in Nellore and Karimnagar districts of Andhra Pradesh (Perennou and Santharam 1990, Choudhury 1990) and in Pathanamthitta, Kerala (Kumar 1991). The present sighting is the first record of the species in Karnataka, and hence, is of interest.

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11. FIRST (?) SIGHTING OF CRAB PLOVER *DROMAS ARDEOLA* AND PIED HARRIER *CIRCUS MELANOLEUCOS* IN RAIGAD DISTRICT, MAHARASHTRA

On November 22, 1998 a flock of six crab plovers (*Dromas ardeola*) was seen on the sandy beach of Agardanda village near Murud-Janjira, Taluka Murud, Raigad district in the Konkan area of Maharashtra. Probably the same flock was sighted again on December 20, 1998 on the